

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Congress of Regional Leaders Recommended Regional Water Conservation Policies

DEPARTMENT: County Manager Office

DIVISION:

AUTHORIZED BY: Cindy Coto

CONTACT: Cynthia Coto

EXT: 7211

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is seeking direction as it relates to the Congress of Regional Leaders Recommended Regional Water Conservation Policies; Water Policy #1 - Landscaping; Water Policy #2 - Tiered Rate Structure.

County-wide

Cynthia Coto

BACKGROUND:

On November 14, 2008, Congress of Regional Leaders (CRL) met to develop the Recommended Regional Water Conservation Policies; Water Policy #1 - Landscaping; Water Policy #2 - Tiered Rate Structure. CRL agreed that each of the Board representatives from the 7 counties and 86 cities take the drafted recommendations back to their respective Boards for action to be taken.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Congress of Regional Leaders Notes 11-14-08
2. CRL Recommended Policies
3. 2009 CRL Meeting Dates

Additionally Reviewed By: No additional reviews

Meeting Notes

myregion.org

Congress of Regional Leaders Meeting

Friday, November 14, 2008

METROPLAN ORLANDO

Chairman Frank Bruno called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m., and welcomed everyone. He then introduced Chairman Sam Johnson, Polk County Commissioner, to the Congress as the elected official representing of Polk County, and replacing Mayor Jack Myers. Established as a ceremony in January, Chairman Bruno then invited Chairman Johnson, as a new elected representative, to sign the Regional Growth Compact, developed by the founding members of the Congress as a pledge of commitment in support of implementing the regional growth vision. By signing the Regional Growth Compact, Chairman Johnson officially becomes a member of the Congress of Regional Leaders. After the signing, Chairman Bruno asked Chairman Johnson to give a brief self-introduction.

Chairman Bruno then recognized Transportation Champion, Commissioner Brenda Carey who reported that the *Congress of Regional Leaders* just signed and unanimously passed a Resolution of Support regarding Central Florida Commuter Rail. Carey also informed the *Congress* of her recent meeting with Congressman John Mica and the League of Women Voters, at a Transportation Forum in Seminole County. Several areas have been identified throughout the country and a bill for High Speed Rail has been signed, with Central Florida and South Florida being two of the areas included. She also noted that dedicated funding for transportation is an issue and even though legislation has been passed that give counties the opportunity to go out and lobby for Commuter Rail, careful methods on the number of times voters are approached regarding the project need to be addressed.

After much discussion on transportation from several members of the *Congress*, Shelley Lauten, President of *myregion.org* mentioned in 2009, *myregion.org* would work on a research project that will focus on finding other regional best practices in funding transportation.

Chairman Bruno introduced Jacob V. Stuart, President and CEO of the *Central Florida Partnership* who updated the *Congress* on the progress of the Central Florida Regional Task Force and the Resolution in Support of Commuter Rail. Stuart has been talking to civic leaders around the region about the Central Florida Commuter Rail project and will be asking them to sign the resolution.

Stuart also informed the *Congress* that it takes the business, civic community and elected officials to be in alignment to move things forward. Eleven senators didn't support Commuter Rail in the last session therefore engaging the support of the Tampa Bay is very important at this time.

Stuart then addressed the priorities that need to be advanced at the Central Florida Legislative Leadership Forum at the University of Central Florida Alumni Center on Friday, December 12, 2008, from 8:30 to 11:30 am. These are:

- “*How Shall We Grow?*” as a region and a state
- Transportation and Commuter Rail
- Higher education needs of colleges and universities, including funding sources for the medical school

Nancy Clutts, Mayor, City of Tavares, commended Stuart on his efforts of bringing the delegation together and commented that what elected officials need to understand is they are elected in a specific geographic area, but serve the common good of the region and the state. Chairman Bruno also thanked Stuart for his efforts on behalf of all Central Florida and then recognized Water Champion, Commissioner Bill Segal to update the *Congress* on the Regional Water Strategy priority. Segal called upon Lauten to discuss the feedback from the Recommended Regional Water Policies survey that was sent to the seven counties of the region.

Lauten reported that 7 counties and 20 cities responded to the questions addressing three (3) Regional Water Policies:

- Policy # 1 - Landscaping
- Policy # 2 – Water Scheduling
- Policy # 3 – Tiered Rated Structure

The survey also included questions in support of a region-wide adoption of the policy and what changes would you recommend.

After much discussion, Roland Via, Mayor, City of Holly Hill, made the motion to approve and adopt Policy # 1 (Landscaping) and Policy # 3 (Tiered Rate Structure) with the following changes. The motion was second by Thomas Eschenberg, Mayor, Town of Malabar and both policies unanimously passed.

Regional Water Policy #1 (Landscaping)

The *Congress of Regional Leaders* recommends that, at a minimum, county and City Landscaping Ordinances for **NEW DEVELOPMENT** should include language that:

- a. Limits the total amount of turf used on lawn as a percentage of the lot
- b. Encourages the use of native and drought resistant plant species
- c. Requires the use of a technologically advanced irrigation system

Regional Policy # 3 - (Tiered Rate Structure)

The *Congress of Regional Leaders* recommends that all water suppliers in the region adopt conservation-oriented Tiered Rate Structure.

Policy # 2 (Water Scheduling) was not adopted and was tabled for discussion until the February 2009 meeting. Lauten thanked the *Congress* on passing two of the three Regional Policies. Chairman Bruno thanked Commissioner Segal and Lauten for their work on these policies.

Next step: Each representative on the Congress of Regional Leaders will take the two policies back to all cities and counties and recommend adoption into the local plans.

Lauten introduced James Sellen, Chair, ULI Orlando, and Executive Vice President of MSCW, Inc. to present a proposal to the *Congress* that will sponsor up to four programs for the purpose of advancing the Central Florida District Council and the four themes and six principles developed as part of the "*How Shall We Grow?*" program. Sellen informed *Congress* members that Atlanta did a study of the barriers to smart growth and they would like to take the same approach in the Central Florida area, with the creation of 1-2 day programs with nationally recognized, high profile speakers to address best practices regarding the key components of each one of the regional priorities. The first topic should be how to fund transportation as a region.

Commissioner Segal made a motion to support the proposal and Gary Bruhn, Mayor, Town of Windermere second. The request in support of the proposal was unanimously approved. Lauten then asked for each member of the *Congress* to identify staff members that can work with ULI as the program is developed. She also asked members to provide feedback on their perspectives for 2009 and what they see as great possibilities and opportunities. After comments from several *Congress* members, Lauten shared that, in just one year, four municipalities have adopted concepts of "*How Shall We Grow?*" and there are many other great opportunities as *myregion.org* look forward to 2009. She reviewed the 2009 meeting dates and announced the new meeting location.

Being there no other business, Chairman Bruno thanked everyone for their time and dedication as *Congress of Regional Leaders* members for 2008 and adjourned the meeting at 11:23 a.m.



Congress of Regional Leaders

Recommended Regional Water Conservation Policies

November, 2008

Background

The *Congress of Regional Leaders*, which was formed a year ago as part of the "How Shall We Grow?" campaign, includes the Chairman (or representative) from each of the seven (7) county commissions, a representative mayor from each county and two (2) members of the Central Florida Public School Boards Coalition.

In July 2007, the representative members of the Congress publicly signed a pledge—A Regional Compact—to the citizens of the region that as elected officials, they will work to ensure the Central Florida Growth Vision becomes reality.

As outlined in the Regional Compact, the Congress will:

- Develop appropriate regional policies;
- Promote understanding and support of the Central Florida Regional Growth Vision;
- Monitor progress toward the Vision, and;
- Develop a process for updating the Vision to respond to evolving regional trends

Four (4) Regional Priorities have been identified for the Congress to develop shared, consistent policies and/or actions:

1. Water
2. Transportation
3. Land Conversation
4. Legislative Agendas

Recommended Regional Water Policies

In November 2008, the *Congress of Regional Leaders* approved and recommends that all counties and cities throughout the region adopt the following two water policies for **new development**:

Water Policy # 1 – Landscaping

The *Congress of Regional Leaders* recommends that, at a minimum, County and City Landscaping Ordinances for new development should include language that:

- a. Limits the total amount of turf used on lawn as a percentage of the lot
- b. Encourages the use of native and drought resistant plant species
- c. Requires the use of a technologically advanced irrigation system

Water Policy # 2 – Tiered Rate Structure

The *Congress of Regional Leaders* recommends that all water suppliers in the region adopt conservation-oriented Tiered Rate Structure.

It is the goal of the *Congress of Regional Leaders* to seek support for adoption of these two policies by each of the 93 county and city municipalities throughout the region.

myregion.org
2009 Congress of Regional Leaders
Meeting Dates

Friday, February 6, 2009

Congress of Regional Leaders Meeting

9:00 a.m., to 12:00 o'clock Noon

Lake Mary Events Center
260 North Country Club Road
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Friday, May 29, 2009

Congress of Regional Leaders Meeting

9:00 a.m., to 12:00 o'clock Noon

Lake Mary Events Center
260 North Country Club Road
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Friday, August 28, 2009

Congress of Regional Leaders Meeting

9:00 a.m., to 12:00 o'clock Noon

Lake Mary Events Center
260 North Country Club Road
Lake Mary, FL 32746

Friday, December 4, 2009

Congress of Regional Leaders Meeting

9:00 a.m., to 12:00 o'clock Noon

Lake Mary Events Center
260 North Country Club Road
Lake Mary, FL 32746